



Snohomish County
Planning and Development
Services

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ONLINE INFORMATION
www.snohomishcountywa.gov/1190



This Assistance Bulletin only applies to property within unincorporated Snohomish County and does not apply to property within incorporated city limits.

Assistance Bulletin

Day Care Operations

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Keyword: Assistance Bulletins

Q: Does the county define day care facilities?

A: Yes. There are two different kinds of day care facilities defined in the county zoning code:

- **Day Care Center** means either a facility other than an occupied dwelling unit which receives persons for day care, or an occupied dwelling unit which receives 13 or more persons for day care. In the event a facility houses children, senior citizens and/or the disabled, the total number of persons received shall be used to determine the number of persons served.
- **Family Day Care Home** means an occupied dwelling unit in which the full-time occupant provides day care for persons other than from his/her own family and the family of close relatives. Such care in a family day care home is limited to 12 or fewer persons, including children living in the home or children and other close relatives cared for in the home. The numerical limitation for the facility shall be determined by totaling the number of children and adults being cared for within the home.

Q: In which zones are these facilities allowed? What restrictions do they have?

Day Care Center

Day Care Centers are a permitted use in the following zones: BP, CB, FS, GC, HI, IP, LI, NB, PCB, RB, RD, RFS, and RU.

Day Care Centers require a Conditional Use Permit in the following zones: LDMR, MR, R-5 (except for R-5 zoned property having a Mineral Resource Overlay), R-7,200, R-8,400, R-9,600, R-12,500, R-20,000, RC, SA-1, and WFB.

Day Care Centers require an Administrative Conditional Use Permit in the following zone: MHP

In the R-7,200, R-8,400, R-9,600, R-12,500, R-20,000, SA-1, and WFB zones, day care facilities are only permitted in connection with and secondary to a school facility or place of worship.

Outdoor play areas shall be fenced or otherwise controlled and noise buffering provided to protect adjoining residences.

This bulletin is intended only as an information guide. The information may not be complete and is subject to change. For complete legal information, refer to Snohomish County Code.

Family Day Care Home

Family Day Care Homes are a permitted use in the following zones: A-10, CB, CRC, F, GC, LDMR, MHP, MR, NB, R-5 (except for R-5 zoned property having a Mineral Resource Overlay), R-7,200, R-8,400, R-9,600, R-12,500, R-20,000, RB, RC, RD, RU, SA-1, and WFB.

No outdoor play areas or equipment shall be located in any required setback from a street. Any outdoor play areas shall be fenced or otherwise controlled.

Q: Is a Certificate of Occupancy required?

A: In certain cases.

- No Certificate of Occupancy is required for day care facilities in your occupied home for up to 12 persons (which include children residing in the home).
- Day care facilities in your home for 13 or more persons (where zoning permits) require a Certificate of Occupancy.
- Day care facilities not in an occupied dwelling providing care for seven or more persons require a Certificate of Occupancy.

Q: How do I get a Certificate of Occupancy if I need one?

A: You can get information about building and fire code requirements, applying for a Tenant Improvement permit, and obtaining a Certificate of Occupancy at the Planning & Development Services (PDS) Customer Service Center on the 2nd Floor of the Robert J. Drewel Building, 3000 Rockefeller Avenue, in downtown Everett.

Q: Are there any other requirements?

A: Possibly. Any party wishing to operate a family day care home or day care center also should contact the Washington State Department of Social & Health Services (DSHS) for additional information and requirements.
